

Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Habitat Preference: Found near water such as rivers, reservoirs and lakes. Nest in large trees with open crowns; especially cottonwood and white pine trees along riparian areas

Threats:

- Loss of nesting and wintering areas due to river development and elimination of large trees for nesting and roosting.
- Harassment of eagles at roost sites and nest sites.
- DDT pesticides in early 1970's caused severe decline (problem mostly resolved).
- Lead poisoning is still an issue.
- Illegal shooting is now a small problem.

Practice Guidelines:

- Limit disturbance of known nesting sites and winter roosts; this species is very site specific and will come back to the same site year after year.
 - Create a minimum ¼ mile **no disturbance** buffer zone around nest and winter roost sites.
- Leave large trees surrounding known nest sites.
- Manage for areas of older growth woodlands along riparian areas:
 - Allow stands of large cottonwoods, sycamore, white pines, etc. to mature along rivers for future nest sites (50-year-old cottonwoods can serve as nest sites).
 - Allow upland stands of oak, white pine, sycamore, maple, etc. to mature along rivers for future winter roost sites.
 - Do not cut trees with a diameter at breast height of over 12 inches within 100 feet of river banks.



Photo Courtesy Mary Ellen Leicht